

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 073761

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY S/P:SWLEWIS

APPROVED BY S/P:WLORD

EUR:AHARTMAN

INR:WHYLAND

S/S:SRGAMMON

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R 111859Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 073761

EXDIS

E.O. 11652

TAGS:PFOR/NATO

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING (APAG)

FOR AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD FROM S/P LORD

REF A - STATE 068495

REF B - US NATO L827

1. REF A CONFIRMING MY PLAN TO ATTEND APAG MEETING CROSSED YOUR MESSAGE (REF B). I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER NATO PLANNERS, AND WILL ALSO PROBABLY HAVE ONE DAY OF INFORMAL EXCHANGES WITH BRITISH PLANNING STAFF IN LONDON EN ROUTE LISBON. IN LIGHT OF THIS YEAR'S DISCUSSION TOPIC I HAVE ASKED NEW INR CHIEF BILL HYLAND TO JOIN ME ALONG WITH ONE MEMBER OF MY STAFF AND VERY MUCH HOPE HE WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND. AS YOU SUGGEST, ENCOURAGEMENT OF ATTENDANCE BY SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE.

2. AS S/P HAS DONE IN THE PAST, WE ARE PREPARING A DISCUSSION PAPER WHICH WE EXPECT TO HAVE READY TO CIRCULATE ABOUT A MONTH IN ADVANCE OF MEETING. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS PAPER YOU OR YOUR STAFF

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FUL FOR ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS PAPER YOU OR YOUR STAFF

MIGHT HAVE, HAVING IN MIND PARTICULARLY YOUR HOPE THAT APAG HAS NOT BEEN AS INFLUENTIAL IN PAST NATO POLICY PROCESS AS MIGHT BE DESIRABLE. ALSO TRUST YOU WILL SUGGEST THEMES I SHOULD PURSUE AT LISBON TO ENCOURAGE

APAG'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE DIRECTION YOU SUGGEST.

3. WHATEVER MISSION CAN DO TO ENCOURAGE SHORTENING SCHEDULE TO BEGIN MEETINGS JUNE 5 WOULD BE APPRECIATED. THIS WOULD STILL ALLOW AMPLE TIME FOR FULL DISCUSSION OF TOPIC.

4. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THIS GROUP IN THE PAST HAS RESISTED IDEA OF MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON ASSUMPTION LIKELY RESULT WOULD BE TO REDUCE REPRESENTATION FROM HOME CAPITALS. AM ALSO TOLD THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL VALUE TO THE KIND OF INFORMALITY WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS. SO FAR AS MORE FORMAL REPORTS TO THE NATO COUNCIL OR ASSIGNMENTS FROM IT, I WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN YOUR THOUGHTS AS TO WHETHER OR HOW THESE STEPS WOULD MAKE ANY REAL SUBSTANTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO NATO'S WORK. OUR PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIVES TO THESE MEETINGS TELL ME THEY HAD CONCLUDED APAG'S MAIN UTILITY WAS TO HELP EDUCATE REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME OF THE SMALLER COUNTRIES ON SOME OF THE BROAD, SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL ISSUES, AS WELL AS TO FACILITATE FREE-RANGING DISCUSSION AMONG THE BRITISH, GERMANS, FRENCH, AND OURSELVES.

5. I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING YOUR FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THIS MEETING AND TO DOING WHATEVER I CAN TO STRENGTHEN APAG AS A USEFUL ORGAN OF THE ALLIANCE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEETING AGENDA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE073761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SWLEWIS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740084-0819
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740447/aaaabqvutel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A - STATE 068495
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATLANTIC POLICY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING (APAG) FOR AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD FROM S/P LORD
TAGS: PFOR, XN, NATO, APAG, (RUMSFELD)
To: NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005